

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 18, and 20 are currently pending in the present application.

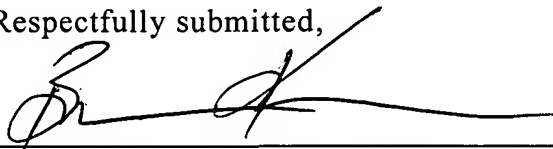
In the pending office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-8, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,773,010 ("Zucchi et al.") in view of United States Patent 4,548,409 ("Cacho"). The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cacho. Finally, the Examiner indicated claim 24 contained allowable subject matter, but objected to the claim as being depending on a rejected base claim. The applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

For all the reasons previously presented, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejections presented by the Examiner. However, to expedite the issuance of a patent from this application, the applicants have amended claims 1 and 18 to contain all the recitations of allowable claim 24. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 18 are currently in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3, 5-8, and 20 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 18. Based at least on the dependency, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 5-8, and 20 are currently in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

In light of the above, it is believed that Claims 1-3, 5-8, 18, and 20 overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections, and are allowable over the prior art of record. Such allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned at (303) 295-8170 if any additional information is needed.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2623. Should any extensions of time not accounted for be required, consider this a petition therefore and charge the associated fee to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted,



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